

CLAIMS

1. In combination:

2 a portable article;
a first support; and
4 at least one connecting element for maintaining the portable article in a
secured state relative to the first support,
6 the at least one connecting element comprising at least one arm that
overlies a portion of the portable article,
8 at least a portion of the at least one connecting element at least one of a)
is made from a hardened metal material, b) has a stepped configuration, and c)
10 has a shaped non-flat surface so as to be resistant to bending in a manner to allow
the portable article to be released from the secured state.

2. The combination according to claim 1 wherein with the portable

article in the secured state the portable article is captive between a part of the at
least one connecting element and the first support.

3. The combination according to claim 2 wherein the part of the at least
2 one connecting element is defined by the at least one arm.

4. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the at least one
2 connecting element comprises a base which is connected to the first support and
the at least one arm projects from the base and has a first leg and a second leg
4 projecting transversely to the first leg and the portable article is captive between
the second leg and the first support.

5. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first support is
2 integral with the connecting element.

6. The combination according to claim 5 wherein at least a part of the
2 first support is formed as one piece with the connecting element.

7. The combination according to claim 6 further comprising a second
2 support and a connecting system joined between the first and second supports.

8. The combination according to claim 7 wherein the connecting system
2 comprises a flexible cable/cord.

9. The combination according to claim 8 further comprising an alarm
2 system capable of producing a detectable signal as an incident of at least one of
a) the flexible cable/cord being severed, b) the flexible cable/cord being separated
4 from the first support and c) the flexible cable/cord being separated from the
second support.

10. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the portion of the at
2 least one connecting element has a rib formed therein defining the stepped
configuration.

11. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the portion of the at
2 least one connecting element has an "L" shape.

12. The combination according to claim 11 wherein the portion of the at
2 least one connecting element defines the at least one arm.

13. The combination according to claim 5 wherein the connecting
2 element and first support have facing surfaces between which the portable article
is captive.

14. The combination according to claim 1 further comprising a second
2 connecting element that is separate from the one connecting element, the second
connecting element comprising a second arm that overlies a portion of the
4 portable article and cooperates with the one connecting element to maintain the
portable article in the secured state.

15. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the at least one
2 connecting element is selectively securable to the first support in a plurality of
different positions.

16. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the at least one
2 connecting element has an adjusting state and a fixed state relative to the first
support, the at least one connecting element in the adjusting state maintained
4 against separation from the first support and selectively repositionable relative to
the first support.

17. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the at least one
2 connecting element comprises a base from which the at least one arm projects
and the base is connected to the first support.

18. The combination according to claim 17 wherein a fastener extends
2 into the first support and maintains the at least one connecting element on the first
support.

19. The combination according to claim 18 wherein the first support
2 comprises a wall with oppositely facing front and rear surfaces, the fastener
extends through the front surface so that a part of the fastener is exposed beyond
4 the rear surface and a securing element is attached to the exposed part of the
fastener to prevent separation of the at least one connecting element from the first
6 support.

20. The combination according to claim 19 wherein the exposed part of
2 the fastener is threaded.

21. The combination according to claim 19 wherein the wall has a
2 plurality of discrete openings through which the fastener can be selectively
extended.

22. A connecting element for securing a portable article, the connecting
2 element comprising:

4 a base that is one of a) connected to and b) connectable to a first support;
and

6 an arm projecting from the base and having a first leg and a second leg
disposed transversely to the first leg,

8 the arm configured to captively overlie a portion of a portable article that is
being secured,

10 at least a portion of the at least one connecting element at least one of a)
is made from hardened metal material, b) has a stepped configuration, and c) has
a shaped, non-flat surface so as to be resistant to bending.

23. The connecting element for securing a portable article according to
2 claim 22 wherein the first support is integral with the base.

24. The connecting element for securing a portable article according to
2 claim 22 wherein the first support is formed as one piece with the base.

25. The connecting element for securing a portable article according to
2 claim 23 wherein the arm and first support have facing surfaces between which a
portable article being secured can be captively maintained.

26. The connecting element for securing a portable article according to
2 claim 22 wherein the connecting element has an integral fastener thereon.

27. The connecting element for securing a portable article according to
2 claim 26 wherein the fastener comprises a threaded element.

28. The connecting element for securing a portable article according to
2 claim 22 wherein the portion of the connecting element has a rib formed thereon
defining the stepped configuration.